

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 13, 2016

Agenda Item: Avista Cooperative Management Area

Division/Bureau: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Min

Background

This proposal would renew for another two years, through Commission rule, the current Cooperative Management Area on Avista Corporation property in Sanders County. This is a recreational area heavily used by the public along the Clark Fork River near Thompson Falls. The Cooperative Management Agreement rules would provide for managed public access for camping, fishing, hunting, boating and other outdoor activities during parts of the year that fall outside of the general fall hunting season. Several other Avista properties would still remain in the Block Management program for hunting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

These rules are not new to Avista Corporation property and have worked well for the past two years. A public process will be initiated if the proposal is approved for public comment. The public comment period will run until Friday, November 11 at 5 p.m.

Alternatives and Analysis

Without adoption of this proposal, FWP would not be able to operate under a special circumstances agreement and would only provide enforcement during the block management season. Enforcement efforts could be hampered if violators cannot be prosecuted outside of hunting season, potentially resulting in decreased access on Avista lands in Sanders County.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP proposes the Commission approve this tentative rule. This rule will result in continued free public access on Avista lands year round.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed Avista Cooperative Management Area Biennial Rule.